The West Side Players, a very talented group of thespians comprised of residents from all sections of the city, are about as excited as you can get. They've just learned that they've been granted a private audience with Pope John Paul on Oct. 16. The group is working hard to raise funds for the trip to Rome where they will perform their production "Francis" before the Pope. This is a project the entire city of Carbondale should get behind since the group will not only be representing the West Side Players, they'll be representing the city of Carbondale.

As a matter of fact, wouldn't it be a good idea for the city administration to get involved in? There are any number of ways the city could help to raise the funds for the trip, make it a community effort, send along some gifts to the Pope from the citizens of Carbondale. And we can have a community send-off the day the group departs for Rome.

Let's get behind this. The city will be in the spotlight, but for a change it'll make us proud.

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Father Walter Horan was walking along Main Street Friday morning looking fit as a fiddle after his illness. His brother, Monsignor Thomas Horan, also looking cheerful during the week.

AND FINALLY

Did you know that residents, especially the young ones, from outside the community refer to our Main Street as Gasoline Alley?